

RAYMOND KNAPP, individually
and on behalf of all others similarly
situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

**AMERICAN BUSINESS CARD,
LLC**; DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendant(s).

) Case No.
)
) **CLASS ACTION**
)
) **COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS**
) **OF:**
)
) 1. NEGLIGENT VIOLATIONS OF
) THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER
) PROTECTION ACT [47 U.S.C.
) §227 ET SEQ.]
) 2. WILLFUL VIOLATIONS OF THE
) TELEPHONE CONSUMER
) PROTECTION ACT [47 U.S.C.
) §227 ET SEQ.]
)
) **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

NATURE OF THE CASE

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

1 the illegal actions of AMERICAN BUSINESS CARD, LLC (“Defendant”), in
2 negligently, knowingly, and/or willfully contacting Plaintiff via “telephone
3 facsimile machine” in violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47.
4 *U.S.C. § 227 et seq.* (“TCPA”), thereby causing Plaintiff and all others similarly
5 situated to incur the costs of receiving unsolicited advertisement messages via
6 “telephone facsimile machines” and invading their privacy.

7 **JURISDICTION & VENUE**

8 2. Jurisdiction is proper under 28 *U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)* because Plaintiff,
9 a resident of California, seeks relief on behalf of a Class, which will result in at
10 least one class member belonging to a different state than that of Defendant, a
11 Delaware Corporation headquartered in Virginia. Plaintiff also seeks up to
12 \$1,500.00 in damages for each call in violation of the TCPA, which, when
13 aggregated among a proposed class in the thousands, exceeds the \$5,000,000.00
14 threshold for federal court jurisdiction. Therefore, both diversity jurisdiction and
15 the damages threshold under the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 (“CAFA”) are
16 present, and this Court has jurisdiction.

17 3. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the Northern
18 District of California pursuant to 28 *U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2)* because Defendant does
19 business within the state of California and Plaintiff resides within this District.

20 **PARTIES**

21 4. Plaintiff, RAYMOND KNAPP (“Plaintiff”), is a natural person
22 residing in Contra Costa County, California and is a “person” as defined by 47
23 *U.S.C. § 153 (39)*.

24 5. Defendant, AMERICAN BUSINESS CARD, LLC (“Defendant” or
25 “DEFENDANT”), is in the business of producing and printing business cards, and
26 is a “person” as defined by 47 *U.S.C. § 153 (39)*.

27 6. The above named Defendant, and its subsidiaries and agents, are
28 collectively referred to as “Defendants.” The true names and capacities of the

1 Defendants sued herein as DOE DEFENDANTS 1 through 10, inclusive, are
2 currently unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues such Defendants by fictitious
3 names. Each of the Defendants designated herein as a DOE is legally responsible
4 for the unlawful acts alleged herein. Plaintiff will seek leave of Court to amend the
5 Complaint to reflect the true names and capacities of the DOE Defendants when
6 such identities become known.

7 7. Plaintiff is informed and believes that at all relevant times, each and
8 every Defendant was acting as an agent and/or employee of each of the other
9 Defendants and was acting within the course and scope of said agency and/or
10 employment with the full knowledge and consent of each of the other Defendants.
11 Plaintiff is informed and believes that each of the acts and/or omissions complained
12 of herein was made known to, and ratified by, each of the other Defendants.

13 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

14 8. Beginning in or around March of 2017, Defendant contacted Plaintiff
15 on his telephone facsimile number ending in -2428, in an effort to sell or solicit its
16 services.

17 9. Defendant contacted Plaintiff via facsimile from telephone numbers
18 that belong to Defendant.

19 10. Defendant contacted Plaintiff between on or around March of 2017 in
20 an effort to solicit its business.

21 11. Defendant's messages constituted "telephone solicitation" as defined
22 by the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227(a)(4) and "unsolicited advertisement" as defined by
23 the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227(a)(5).

24 12. Defendant used an "telephone facsimile machine" as defined by 47
25 U.S.C. § 227(a)(3) to place its calls to Plaintiff seeking to sell or solicit its business
26 services.

27 13. Defendant's calls constituted calls that were not for emergency
28 purposes as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A).

1 14. Defendant's calls were placed to telephone facsimile numbers
2 assigned to a telephone service for which Plaintiff incurs a charge for incoming
3 messages.

4 15. Plaintiff is not a customer of Defendant's services and has never
5 provided any personal information, including his telephone facsimile number(s), to
6 Defendant for any purpose whatsoever. Accordingly, Defendant never received
7 Plaintiff's "prior express consent" to receive calls using a telephone facsimile
8 machine pursuant to *47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(C)*.

9 16. Furthermore, the messages that Defendant sent to Plaintiff lacked the
10 "opt-out" notice pursuant to *47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(2)(D)*.

11 **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

12 17. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and all others similarly
13 situated, as a member of the proposed class (hereafter "The Class") defined as
14 follows:

15 All persons within the United States who received any
16 telephone facsimile messages from Defendant to said
17 person's telephone facsimile number made through the
18 use of any telephone facsimile machine and such person
19 had not previously consented to receiving such messages
20 and such messages did not contain any opt-out notice
within the four years prior to the filing of this Complaint

21 18. Plaintiff represents, and is a member of, The Class, consisting of All
22 persons within the United States who received any telephone facsimile messages
23 from Defendant to said person's telephone facsimile number made through the use
24 of any telephone facsimile machine and such person had not previously not
25 provided their telephone facsimile number to Defendant within the four years prior
26 to the filing of this Complaint, nor did the telephone facsimile message contain an
27 opt-out notice.

28 19. Defendant, its employees and agents are excluded from The Class.

1 Plaintiff does not know the number of members in The Class, but believes the Class
2 members number in the thousands, if not more. Thus, this matter should be certified
3 as a Class Action to assist in the expeditious litigation of the matter.

4 20. The Class is so numerous that the individual joinder of all of its
5 members is impractical. While the exact number and identities of The Class
6 members are unknown to Plaintiff at this time and can only be ascertained through
7 appropriate discovery, Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that
8 The Class includes thousands of members. Plaintiff alleges that The Class members
9 may be ascertained by the records maintained by Defendant.

10 21. Plaintiff and members of The Class were harmed by the acts of
11 Defendant in at least the following ways: Defendant illegally contacted Plaintiff
12 and Class members via their telephone facsimile numbers thereby causing Plaintiff
13 and Class members to incur certain charges or reduced telephone facsimile time for
14 which Plaintiff and Class members had previously paid by having to retrieve or
15 administer messages left by Defendant during those illegal calls, and invading the
16 privacy of said Plaintiff and Class members.

17 22. Common questions of fact and law exist as to all members of The
18 Class which predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of
19 The Class. These common legal and factual questions, which do not vary between
20 Class members, and which may be determined without reference to the individual
21 circumstances of any Class members, include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 22
- 23 a. Whether, within the four years prior to the filing of this Complaint,
24 Defendant sent telephone facsimile messages (other than for
25 emergency purposes or made with the prior express consent of the
26 called party and with an opt-out notice contained in the messages) to
27 a Class member using any telephone facsimile machine to any
28 telephone number assigned to a telephone facsimile service;
- b. Whether Plaintiff and the Class members were damaged thereby, and
the extent of damages for such violation; and
- c. Whether Defendant should be enjoined from engaging in such conduct

1 in the future.

2 23. As a person who received numerous messages from Defendant using
3 a telephone facsimile machine, without Plaintiff's prior express consent, Plaintiff
4 is asserting claims that are typical of The Class.

5 24. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members
6 of The Class. Plaintiff has retained attorneys experienced in the prosecution of
7 class actions.

8 25. A class action is superior to other available methods of fair and
9 efficient adjudication of this controversy, since individual litigation of the claims
10 of all Class members is impracticable. Even if every Class member could afford
11 individual litigation, the court system could not. It would be unduly burdensome
12 to the courts in which individual litigation of numerous issues would proceed.
13 Individualized litigation would also present the potential for varying, inconsistent,
14 or contradictory judgments and would magnify the delay and expense to all parties
15 and to the court system resulting from multiple trials of the same complex factual
16 issues. By contrast, the conduct of this action as a class action presents fewer
17 management difficulties, conserves the resources of the parties and of the court
18 system, and protects the rights of each Class member.

19 26. The prosecution of separate actions by individual Class members
20 would create a risk of adjudications with respect to them that would, as a practical
21 matter, be dispositive of the interests of the other Class members not parties to such
22 adjudications or that would substantially impair or impede the ability of such non-
23 party Class members to protect their interests.

24 27. Defendant has acted or refused to act in respects generally applicable
25 to The Class, thereby making appropriate final and injunctive relief with regard to
26 the members of the California Class as a whole.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Negligent Violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act

47 U.S.C. §227 et seq.

28. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference into this cause of action the allegations set forth above at Paragraphs 1-27.

29. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous and multiple negligent violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq.

30. As a result of Defendant's negligent violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq., Plaintiff and the Class Members are entitled an award of \$500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).

31. Plaintiff and the Class members are also entitled to and seek injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Knowing and/or Willful Violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act

47 U.S.C. §227 et seq.

32. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference into this cause of action the allegations set forth above at Paragraphs 1-27.

33. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous and multiple knowing and/or willful violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq.

34. As a result of Defendant's knowing and/or willful violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq., Plaintiff and the Class members are entitled an award of \$1,500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) and 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C).

35. Plaintiff and the Class members are also entitled to and seek injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests judgment against Defendant for the following:

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Negligent Violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act

47 U.S.C. §227 et seq.

- As a result of Defendant's negligent violations of 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(1), Plaintiff and the Class members are entitled to and request \$500 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 227(b)(3)(B); and
- Any and all other relief that the Court deems just and proper.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Knowing and/or Willful Violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act

47 U.S.C. §227 et seq.

- As a result of Defendant's willful and/or knowing violations of 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(1), Plaintiff and the Class members are entitled to and request treble damages, as provided by statute, up to \$1,500, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(3)(B) and 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(3)(C); and
- Any and all other relief that the Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

36. Pursuant to the Seventh Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, Plaintiff reserves their right to a jury on all issues so triable.

Respectfully Submitted this 25th day of September, 2017.

LAW OFFICES OF TODD M. FRIEDMAN, P.C.

By: /s/ Todd M. Friedman

Todd M. Friedman

Law Offices of Todd M. Friedman

Attorney for Plaintiff